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LETTER DATED 11 FEBRUARY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that:

1. At 1400 hours on 20 January 1998, a tugboat and two small Kuwaiti vessels entered Iraqi territorial waters near buoy No. 21 off Umm Qasr (Governorate of Basra) and fired at an Iraqi coastguard patrol.
2. At 1600 hours on 31 January 1998, seven people, including two in Arab clothing, got out of two Kuwaiti vehicles (a black Pajero and a Superman) which were accompanied by a United Nations vehicle. The individuals in question, who were between markers Nos. 103 and 104, took photos of Iraqi territory. At 1615 hours, they set off again for Kuwait.

I request you to intervene with Kuwait to put an end to these violations which, without justification, have been becoming increasingly frequent. These acts constitute a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law and infringe the sovereignty and security of Iraq.

I also wish to reaffirm the right of the Republic of Iraq to demand compensation for the harm suffered by it and its people as a result of these acts of provocation.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

